# NDIA INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONAL TEST & EVALUATION

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ICOTE March 26-27, 2001

# Committee Report

- Six meetings last two years
- 30 Government and Industry Committee members met in Marietta, GA on 13-14 December 2000
- Theme was "Methods To Improve Tester/PM/Contractor Communication Chain"
  - Update on New 5000 Series
  - Presentation by Industry on a PVT experience
  - Discussion on Concurrent Developmental and Operational Tests
  - Discussion on Contractor "Involvement" in Operational Test
- Committee goal was to publish a white paper on Contractors and Operational Testing. (See <u>PM Magazine</u>, March/April Issue)

## Contractor PVT Experience

- Contractor goal is to provide best value in terms of contact compliance, cost, performance and schedule.
- Tester goal is to verify performance in a conservative manner and find all significant problems prior to fielding.
- These goals are not always congruent, but could be improved with communication.
- Open, early, consistent program manager/tester/contractor communication is the answer.

# Concurrent Developmental & Operational Tests

#### ■ Issues of Concurrent DT/OT

- DoD 5000.2-R encourages a combined DT/OT to achieve time and cost savings
- DOT&E FY00 Annual Report to Congress says "There is a disturbing trend of programs entering dedicated OT&E without having completed sufficient operationally relevant developmental test and evaluation."
- Too often the result of concurrent DT/OT is the successful completion of DT and an OT equipment rating of unsuitable.

#### **■** Possible Solutions:

- Delay start of OT until partial completion of DT
- Allow controlled fixes from DT to be applied to OT

### Contractors Involved In Operational Tests

#### ■ Issues

- The Law (10 USC 2399) says "...no person employed by the contractor for the system being tested may be involved in the conduct of the operational test and evaluation..."
- The Law does not say the contractor can not observe the test, have access to documents like the TEMP, participate as an observer in the IPT's, or be provided early test data.
- Contractor involvement can help acquisition streamlining, decreasing test time and cost.

#### Possible Solutions

- Allow contractor to observe the test.
- Allow access to Temp and IPT's.
- Provide early test data to plan fixes.

# Summary

- Need to rethink best way to do concurrent DT/OT
- Need to examine laws/policies/procedures to encourage better communication and field better products
- Need to read the article on "Contractors and Operational Testing" in March/April <u>PM Magazine</u>
- Comments to jstoddart@oshtruck.com